

Washington, DC -- The U.S House of Representatives passed a resolution today, cosponsored by U.S Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica), calling on the President to increase basic pay for members of the armed service.

“We as Americans must maintain our sacred promise to the brave men and women who protect out country by providing them with the support they deserve here at home,” **said Arcuri.**

“Military families are the backbone of our national defense and it is our duty to ensure they have the resources to achieve the America dream, provide for their loved ones and invest in a home. This resolution reaffirms out commitment as a Congress to the brave men and women who sacrifice everyday so that our families can sleep safely.”

H. Con. Res 162 expresses the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of all military components by 3.5 percent, effective January 1, 2008.

This is the second time this year Arcuri has voted in support of increasing military pay. Earlier this year, Arcuri supported, and the House passed, H.R. 1585 which included a 3.5 percent pay raise for all service members.

Today, the House also passed, with Arcuri’s strong support, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (H.R. 3997) which would provide \$2 billion in tax relief for military families in response to the extended military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan that have created significant economic hardships for many families. H.R. 3997 includes tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit and more low-interest home loans for veterans.

Arcuri also helped guide the Small Business Lending Improvements Act (H.R. 1332) through the House in April, which would ensure that returning servicemen and women are afforded every opportunity to start or expand a small business by creating a lending structure to help address the obstacles faced by owners deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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